

MONTREAL Y.M.C.A.

CAMP PERROT

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman:
Dr. Preston Robb

A.R. Seaman
Director

Chairman Perrot Committee
E. Hammond

To the Camp Board of Management,
Montreal Y.M.C.A. Camps for Boys.

Gentlemen:

The 1950 season at Camp Perrot marks the seventh consecutive year that the Montreal Y.M.C.A. has operated its near-the-city camp on Ile Perrot. It could be described as a year of advance. This season the camp had the highest record of attendance, with a total of eight hundred and twenty-seven weeks. This, coupled with the fact that the promotion budget was cut in half, would indicate that this branch of the Montreal Y.M.C.A. is indeed firmly established.

The excellent cooperation of the Branch Secretaries in promoting the camp through their branches and communities should be recorded at this time. Throughout the camp season it was necessary to refuse applications due to the large attendance. There were only two weeks that the camp did not operate over-capacity.

While the above facts are useful and interesting, they would have a hollow ring, were it not for the fact that the program was of high calibre. This was due in no small measure to the exceptional effort put forward by the staff and counsellors of the camp. It was their understanding of the job to be done that contributed to the success of the past season.

PROGRAM:

In the 1949 report of Camp Perrot it was recommended that special provision should be made for the boys fourteen to sixteen years of age, who attend the camp in relatively large numbers. The Director felt at the time that the program set up for these older boys was not adequate.

After due consideration by the Perrot Committee, it was recommended that a third section be set up in the camp to accommodate these older boys, and that special program be established wherein these boys would receive an experience suitable to their age and ability. To this end a section of three tent platforms was set up near the waterfront. During the entire season there were from twenty to twenty-five boys, fourteen to sixteen years of age, in this section. The Section Director assumed responsibility for one tent, with two counsellors to assist him, each assuming charge of a tent.

The entire program was planned by the camper group, with particular emphasis on out-trips and canoe trips. In all, this group took some fifteen canoe trips, ranging from one to three days. Two or three permanent camping sites were set up in cooperation with some friends of the camp. (One of these places in particular should be mentioned, i.e., the "Christian Homes for Children" at Vaudreuil, which is under the direction of Rev. H. Martin. This organization owns a very fine, well equipped estate at Vaudreuil, and Rev. Martin, time and time again, entertained the visiting parties to the extent of motor boat trips, horse back riding, etc.

This new section was established also with the thought that it would be good training for future counsellors and counsellors-in-training. There will be at least six of this year's campers who will next year come in this category. While it is sometimes not good practice to single out individuals

in a report of this nature, it would be amiss not to make mention of the excellent job turned in by Edgar Knight, Director of this Voyageur Section. Knight, a student teacher, took his responsibilities seriously, and exhibited an outstanding brand of leadership, and keen understanding of the needs of these boys. It was the unanimous feeling of the staff that this section constituted one of the most important phases of the camp's program.

It should also be stated here that the names of the other two sections in the camp have been changed, the Junior Section is now the Pioneer Section, and the Senior Section, the Courier des Bois.

WATERFRONT:

The Waterfront Program of the camp was much improved this year. This is due primarily to the fact that there was a waterfront director on the camp staff. Statistics concerning the number of campers who learned to swim and who passed swimming tests will be found elsewhere in the report. The addition of three new boats, a gift of the Foremen's Club of Montreal, added considerably to the waterfront program. The swimming area was set up in a manner which was excellent for supervision and water-safety. The attached diagram will show clearly this set-up.

NATURE-LORE:

This season there was the most active nature lore program ever carried on at Perrot. It could be said here without fear of contradiction that every camper this summer, at one time or another, took an active part in this program. A major step was made towards the establishment of a natural history museum at camp. Some two hundred and fifty insect specimens were caught by the campers, dried, and mounted in a permanent display case. The camp was fortunate in having as one of its counsellors a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, who

brought with him to camp a six inch telescope. This proved of great interest to the campers.

In the second week of camp one of the campers, while down at the shore, picked up a curious looking object, which appeared to be a fossilized bone of some type of animal. This specimen was taken into Redpath Museum of McGill University for identification. Shortly after this, under the direction of the Waterfront Director, a large number of bones were gathered from the same area. These were also sent to Redpath Museum. While still awaiting a final report of all of the specimens sent to McGill, we have been informed by Mrs. Alice Turnham, Assistant Curator of the Museum that some of these bones are definitely the vertabrae of the "White Whale" which inhabited this part of the country some six thousand years ago, when the area was covered by the Champlain Sea. This was apparently quite a discovery as both Mrs. Turnham and Dr. Maxwell Dunbar of McGill University both visited the camp to see if further specimens of bone could be found. Many other bones, a piece of skull bone and a human clavicle were found. In the search pieces of authentic Indian pottery were also turned up. One can readily imagine the interest and excitement created among the campers by these discoveries.

A unique collection of geological specimens was found by the waterfront. Dr. Dunbar remarked that he had never seen such a fine collection gathered in such a short space of time from such a confined area. It is interesting to note that from these specimens that were found, the various chapters of prehistoric times can be traced back six hundred million years. (It is of interest also to note that the oldest specimens were masses of garnets imbedded in laurentian gneiss.) In the dining hall fire place, constructed so beautifully of matched stones, there are two excellent specimens of this stone. A large glass topped case was constructed by the campers in which these various specimens were set up and labelled.

The above mentioned items of program were only a part of the overall program of the camp. Space does not permit a complete coverage of our program.

GIRLS CAMP:

Girls' Camp was again under the direction of Mrs. A. R. Seaman, With her was a most competent group of staff and counsellors.

Girls' Program: The girls made use of the new Voyageur Section, although in a two week period it was impossible to carry on as extensive a program as followed in boys' camp. The excellent weather and the keenness of the staff and counsellors made it possible to have a full outdoor program. Ninety three of the one hundred girls slept out at least once during their stay at camp. Overnight hikes, campfires, and meals cooked out were extremely popular.

Other program items included handicrafts, boating, canoeing, campcraft, amateur shows, International Day, Christmas Party, Camp Birthday party, corn roast, and many others.

Some thirty seven girls were taught to swim, and seventy-six passed swimming tests.

SERVICE CLUBS:

During the past year Camp Perrot received outstanding support from the Montreal Westward Rotary Club, Kinsmen and Kinettes of Lachine, and the Foreman's Club of Montreal. In all some one hundred and forty boys and girls were sent to camp at the expense of these clubs. The Foreman's Club of Montreal also contributed a substantial amount of money toward camp program equipment.

Special commendation is due to Mr. H. C. Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Lachine Branch of the Y.M.C.A., for the effort that he put into making the necessary arrangements to send many Lachine children to camp. This fall Mr. Patterson is retiring from the Y.M.C.A. after forty two years in the Association, and it would be amiss not to express in this report the sincere appreciation for the interest that Mr. Patterson has put into Camp Perrot since its inception seven years ago.

COUNSELLOR TRAINING:

This year the Perrot Committee recommended an in-camp counsellors training course in preference to periodical meetings in the city. To this end the counsellors had six full days of in-camp training, i.e. week-end several weeks prior to the opening of camp, and four days immediately before the opening of the camp. The proximity of Camp Perrot lends itself well to this type of program, and it is recommended that this be continued next season. The results of "on-the-spot training" were very satisfactory, allowing the Director to see the counsellors in action in the camp situation. It would also be recommended that there be two or three evening sessions held in the city prior to the in-camp training, particularly to acquaint new counsellors with camp routine, rules, regulations, etc., using the time in the camp for more pertinent training.

HEALTH:

The matter of health this year at Camp Perrot can go down as a record season with no serious illness of any type to report throughout the entire season. This was due in no small measure to the efficient manner in which the camp nurses carried out their duties. Drs. A. Kelso and John Hackney of Ste. Anne de Bellevue served as medical consultants when needed.

FOOD:

This year the camp was fortunate in obtaining the services of a Chef from the Montreal High School cafeteria, a highly trained man, he produced excellent food at all times.

VISITS:

In the 1949 season it was noted that considerable difficulty was encountered with the indiscriminate manner in which parents visited the camp, and considerable effort was exerted to prevent this re-occurrence. The results were very gratifying. There were four visiting days set aside for boys' camp, and one in girls' camp. The visiting hours were restricted over past years. It is good to note that the parents were most cooperative in this manner, and the problem of homesickness was reduced to a minimum. On visiting days close to one hundred and twenty parents took the opportunity to come to the camp, and were most kind in their remarks.

NEW EQUIPMENT:

Three new boats were added to the fleet this year, a gift from the Foreman's Club of Montreal, bringing the camp fleet to six dories and two nineteen foot canoes.

This season a dish washing machine was installed in the camp kitchen, and more than proved its value. At all times the dishes were clean and sterile.

New Equipment Con't.

This season the camp purchased a 1950 half ton Ford panel truck, which gave excellent service throughout the entire season, and reduced the budget expenditure fifty percent over the previous season with the old Truck.

REFORESTATION:

Next May eight hundred trees will be planted on the Camp property. Final arrangements were made this fall following a trip to the camp of R. Delisle. M. Delisle is director of the small holdings Branch of the department of Lands and Forests of the Quebec Government.

Mr. Delisle spent half a day at the camp going over our property, and drew up plans for a reforestation program for the camp proper. Four rows of trees will be planted near the cliff to make a wind break, Clusters will be planted around the tent sites as per a plan drawn up by M. Delisle.

Next summer plans will be made for further projects on the balance of the camp property. The trees will be supplied free of charge by the government, the Camp being responsible for transportation from the government nursery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The fire which destroyed the cabin by the lake in 1949 resulted in the fact that counsellors have no place to gather in off-times, outside of the main camp cottage. This proved a strain on this small building, which is also the administration building for the camp. Included in this building are the following: the director's office, business manager's office, quarter master stores, and a tuck shop. This, coupled with the fact that it is also the residence for camp staff, over-taxes the buildings.

In the recently completed survey it was recommended that a building be erected in the camp that would serve as (a) a craft shop, (b) accommodation for counsellors in off-times, (c) tuck shop and quarter-master stores. The construction of such a building would add considerably to the camper's program in that handicrafts play a vital part in program, and it would relieve the over-crowding within the main cottage. It is also important to note that the campers have to cross the highway to come up to the tuck shop and Q.M. stores, and this proves a safety hazard. If the above building was constructed it could be placed down in the camp proper, thus eliminating much crossing of the highway, as well as easing the strain on the main cottage.

It is therefore recommended that this building be constructed before next summer's camping season.

2. One of the major difficulties encountered during the past years, from an administration point of view, was the inadequacy of proper living quarters for the camp director. At present the director lives in the main cottage of the camp above the highway. This building serves as a general meeting place for camp staff and counsellors, as well as staff residence and camp administration centre. The result is that the director has little or no opportunity for quiet or privacy.

The job of directing camp is an arduous and exacting one, requiring long hours. The main cottage is an old building, and in no way sound proof, any noise in the building is heard clearly in every room. This means that if there is a meeting or gathering of any kind going on in the cottage, it is impossible to conduct interviews or carry on any kind of work. It means also that the director cannot get away from camp administration any time of night or day.

The Director also feels that at present he is centred too far from the centre of camp activity. If a camper wishes to talk with the director, often it means crossing the highway, presenting a hazard to safety.

To this end it is recommended that careful consideration be given to the erection of a director's cabin down in the camp proper. This would mean that the director would have closer supervision of the camp activities, but at the same time would have a greater degree of privacy.

This cabin would not have to be elaborate, a small two room cottage would be adequate, with one room serving as a bedroom, and another for a living room.

3. The present camp toilet facilities have been condemned by the camp Board medical advisor, as the cement receptacle has collapsed. This matter will have to receive immediate attention. Along the same lines, the present chemical toilet in the hospital is entirely unsatisfactory. This is not an expensive item, and may be purchased and installed at a very low cost. It is recommended that a septic tank be installed.

APPRECIATION:

The director would indeed be ungrateful if space was not given in this report to the many people who gave so freely of their time and skills in making the 1950 season at Camp Perrot the success that it was:

The camp staff and counsellors for their loyalty and willingness to serve others.

The director of girls camp, staff and counsellors.

The camp board of management for their understanding and support.

The staff of the Montreal Y.M.C.A for their part in camp promotion.

The Yoemen's Club of the Central Branch for their interest and effort in the camp.

The many friends on Ile Perrot for their many kindnesses. Particularly M & Mde Robilliard camp caretakers. They are truly "friends of the Camp".

To Doctore Kelso and Hackney who gave unstintingly of their time and effort to assure the health of the camp.

Miss Vera Rutherford of the camp office in Montreal. Her pleasant disposition and willingness assisted greatly in the success of the camp.

Doctor Maxwell Dunbar and Mrs Alice Turnham of McGill University for their fine contribution to the camp Nature Lore Program.

Roy D.Locke, executive secretary of Boys Camps. Roy is always at hand when needed most.

To all these people we give the "Thanks of a Camper"!

Respectfully submitted

A. Ross Seaman
Director

GROUPS MAKING USE OF THE CAMP OUTSIDE OF THE
REGULAR CAMPING SESSIONS:

Groups from all Branches of the Montreal Y.M.C.A. are encouraged to make every use possible of the facilities offered by the camp for both camping and social program. This year fourteen different groups used the camp, often more than once during the season.

St. Matthias Anglican Church Picnic	150
Westmount Y.M.C.A. Conference	25
Rosemount United Church Picnic	250
Central "Y" Saturday Nite Club (3 visits)	200
Saint James Apostle Scouts	18
Chalmers United Church Young People	60
Rosemount United Church & Y.M.C.A. Conference	29
Central Branch City Camp	7
Westmount Y.M.C.A. City Camp (2 visits)	28
Point St. Charles Branch City Camp	5
International Y.M.C.A. City Camp	9
Westmount Y.M.C.A. Young Adults	28
Point St. Charles Branch Conference	30
Lachine Branch City Camp Picnic	60

999

STAFF

(Boys' Camp)

A. Ross Seaman
E. G. Knight
G. W. Taylor
J. E. Klein
P. M. McFarlane
Miss M. Patterson
Miss Jean Snyder
C. McMichael
E. Zimmerman
A. Higgs

Director
Voyageur Section
Courier de Bois
Pioneer Section
Waterfront Director
Nurse
Business Manager
Chef
Kitchen Help

(Girls' Camp)

Mrs. A. Ross Seaman
Mrs. E. Mayotte
Miss A. Parkinson
Miss T. Horsey

Miss H. Marshall

Counsellors

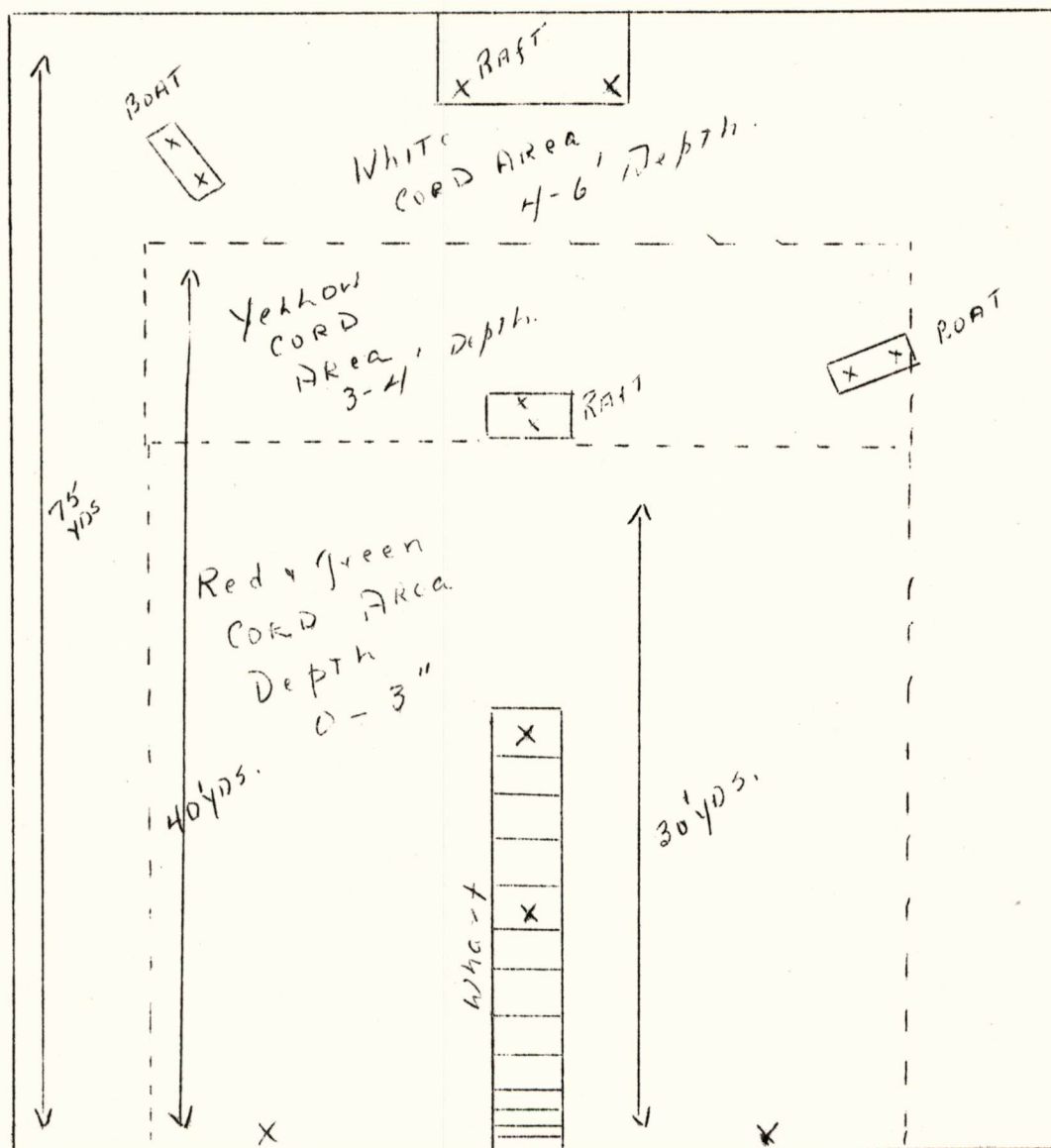
R. Bowman
T. Shannon
P. Brewer
F. McKeen
J. Duggan
T. Noseworthy
M. Gingras
D. Williams
R. Botham
G. Parker
G. Robertson
E. Belford
C. Collins
C.I.T.'s
C. Smith
W. Jones

D. Adamson
R. Eisenach
A. Eisenach
N. Dimianchuck
M. Chislett
N. Lachapelle
M. McLeod
E. Bradley
D. Hooker
P. McLashan
Q. Norman
A. Higgs
C. Gibbs
C.I.T.'s
Ruth Loshaw


ADVANCE GUARD:

Again this season the members of the Point St. Charles Branch of the YMCA accepted the responsibility of acting as advance guard for Camp Perrot. They devoted many week-ends at the camp preparing for the summer activities. While they do enjoy these week-end excursions, nevertheless it is an outstanding contribution that this group make to the camp.

Camp Perrot Waterfront - 1950



X = Life Guard.

 ← WATERFRONT DIRECTOR

STATISTICAL REPORT

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WEEKS</u>		<u>CAMPERS</u>		<u>TOTAL CAMPERS</u>
	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>	
1948	358	178			
1949	588	189	223	100	323 ✓
1950	635	193	299	100	399 ✓

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Number of boys taught to swim

52

Number of swimming tests passed

102

Out of 79 non-swimmers who came to camp, 52 passed their green cord test,

Of the remaining 27 boys were able to swim a short distance, but not sufficient to pass the first camp tests.

Number of boys going on overnight hikes and canoe trips

280

Number of visitors

720

Number of campers for each week of camp:

June 23rd - July 3rd	88
July 3rd to July 10th	107
July 10th to July 17th	115
July 17th to July 24th	100
July 24th to July 31st	120
July 31st to August 8th	99
August 8th to August 15th	99
August 15th to August 22nd	94

22
765
1497
299